# Government Emergency Telecommunications Service

Purpose: The Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) provides Federal, State and local government National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) users with a ubiquitous switched voice and voice-band data communications service. GETS is used during periods of natural or man-made disasters or emergencies that cause congestion or network outages. GETS is an emergency telecommunications service and is designed to be used when NS/EP personnel are unable to complete emergency calls through their regular telecommunications means.

Background: The Office of the Manager, National Communications System (OMNCS), developed GETS in response to White House tasking to provide emergency access and specialized processing in local and long distance telephone networks. The backbone for GETS is the Public Switched Network (PSN) because of its survivability, ease of use, availability, robustness, reliability, and technological currency. GETS can be accessed through the Federal Telecommunications Service (FTS), the Diplomatic Telecommunications Service (DTS) and Defense Information System Network (DISN) and is maintained in a constant state of readiness which maximizes the use of all available telephone resources in the event of congestion or outages caused by emergency, crisis, or war.

Highlights of GETS Features:

- **Access Authorization:** GETS access control is accomplished through the use of Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) to ensure only authorized users gain access to GETS features and protect against fraud.
- **Enhanced Routing**: GETS calls use extensive enhancements to the PSN's robust network of interconnecting paths between switches. With these enhancements to the grid of multiple switch connections, numerous switch failures in the PSN could occur without any disruptions of GETS calls**.**
- **Priority Treatment:**
    - High Probability of Completion Identifier that is carried across the signaling network and used to trigger priority features such as trunk queuing and trunk reservation.
    - Exemption from restrictive network management controls used to reduce network congestion.
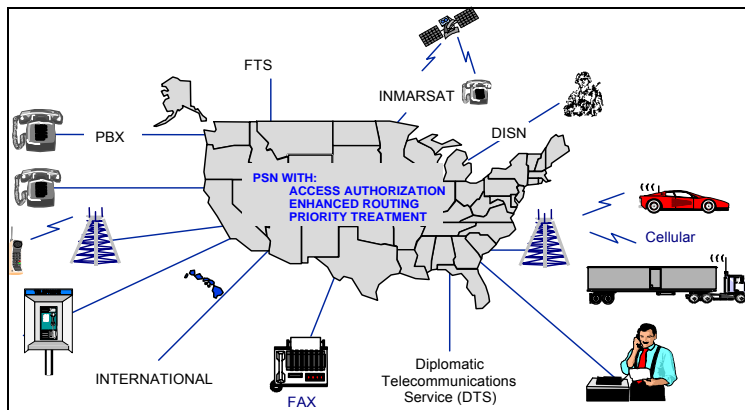
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